



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Minutes 06/13/2012**

### **Arlington Tree Committee**

#### **Minutes of Wednesday, June 13, 2012 Meeting**

Second Floor Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall, Arlington, MA

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden (minutes), Walter Phillips, Ed Tremblay, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt.

ITEM 1 April Minutes were reviewed but not approved because there was not a quorum

ITEM 2 Town Policies Relating to Committees/Quorum. Are there bylaws for committees? Can we adapt some existing guidelines. Eliza to look into the Arlington Cultural Council bylaws and membership info as a model for what is in place for some town committees. Sally to check to see if the town has specific guidelines or bylaws for committees. The members present also discussed the possibility of there being ad hoc (non-voting) members, so we are not always running into the problem of not having a quorum if there are certain TC members who rarely attend meetings. If this were the case, it would reduce the number of TC members required to hold a meeting.

ITEM 3 New Members. Following our last meeting in April (when two individuals expressed interest in stepping down from the Tree Committee), Sally asked the Town to post a notice in Arlington Advocate looking for people interested in joining TC. Marie Krepelka reported that the Town has received 4 resumes. Sally was going to ask the Town if they wanted help in reviewing these 4 resumes. Sally also reported that two individuals that expressed interest in joining TC at one point - Susan Stamps and Rachael Starks - now do not have the time to be part of the committee.

ITEM 4 Publicity. So far there has been no feedback from Amy Currul, the AHS student who made the video of the tree planting demo. Sally will look into this next week when Amy has finished her academic year.

ITEM 5 Spring Tree Planting 2012. Eliza reported that 85 trees were planted (75 by Tree Department, 15 by Tree Committee and volunteers). We discussed how an area such as Grafton St. has been transformed by their new trees. Between, 2011 and 2012, this area received many trees and the neighbors have come together through the process. It was suggested that we take a photo of this area and photoshop the trees out of it to show the transformation in this area due to new trees. Walter offered to do the photoshop deletion.

We discussed tree planting ideas for 2013 such as a discount tree program that enables residents to buy shade trees through the town at a reduced rate. This way people are encouraged to plant shade trees on their own property. The ATC would provide a choice of 5 trees for people to order and then place a bulk order with the Town's annual tree order during Spring 2013.

We also had another discussion about "off berm" tree planting; Corinna suggested looking at laws in other towns in an attempt to institutionalize this in Arlington. Sally will ask Town Counsel whether she would be willing to review a proposed by-law, if the committee drafted one.

ITEM 6 Town Day Planning. A subcommittee (Eliza, Lisa Decker, Mary Ellen and Greg) was formed to plan Town Day activities. Eliza submitted a request for a Town Day booth and paid for it with a personal check. This raised the question of whether incidentals such as this could be "charged" to the DPW (Sally to look into this with Mike R.)

Town Day ideas:

- Before and After Grafton Street photo; how trees can transform a neighborhood

- Public to place push pins on a map to show where street trees are needed (EB: Is this what you meant?)
- Promote discount tree purchasing/bulk purchasing ("Oxygen for Arlington"/"Greening Arlington")
- Design ATC banner, tee-shirts, business cards (with logo, website, and request/answer center)
- Rolling video of tree planting demo
- ALB materials
- Sign-up sheets for manning booth/Materials needed (table, canopy, etc)
- Benefits of Trees poster (Do we have this from Ecofest?)
- Suggestions box?

ITEM 7 Guidelines for Planning Department. Sally thinks this might be too much for ATC to get involved in; she wants to focus on street trees and thinks we should revisit our mission and objectives.

ITEM 8 NSTAR. No update.

ITEM 9 New Business.

- Town Meeting Update. Walter spoke up at TM and introduced the ATC and provided our website.
- Library Table was a success and gave us some publicity. We will try to get this table every April for Arbor Day month if possible
- Arbor Day. Need to do more for Arbor Day. Maybe banner with PLANT A TREE! Also, could think of an angle for a story that could promote TC's role in Arbor Day.
- ALB Workshop. Low turnout due to very nice weather that day. Information available online.

Next meeting: Weds. August 8